

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2012

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 90**

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**Introduced by Senator Anderson**

May 14, 2012

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to the Tuskegee Airmen Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 90, as amended, Anderson. Tuskegee Airmen Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 15 in the County of San Diego as the Tuskegee Airmen Highway. The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Army Air Corps formed the  
2 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Medium Bombardment Group  
3 at Tuskegee Institute to train African American fighter pilots who,  
4 until that time, had not been accepted into pilot training programs  
5 in the military; and  
6 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen were sent to the European  
7 Theatre in 1943 and served in combat in North Africa, Sicily, and  
8 Europe; and  
9 ~~WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen became the first squadron~~  
10 ~~to sink a naval destroyer with only machine guns and the first to~~  
11 ~~shoot down a German jet fighter during World War II; and~~

1 WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen  
2 were credited with destroying 261 enemy aircraft, damaging 148  
3 enemy aircraft, destroying or damaging 940 units of enemy ground  
4 transportation, flying 15,553 combat sorties in 1,578 missions over  
5 North Africa, Sicily, and Europe, and conducting more than 200  
6 bomber escort missions, ~~without losing a single bomber to enemy~~  
7 ~~fighters~~; and

8 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen unit, including its officers  
9 and enlisted personnel, received three Presidential Unit Citations,  
10 150 Distinguished Flying Cross and Legion of Merit awards, the  
11 Red Star of Yugoslavia, nine Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and  
12 more than 700 Air Medals and Oak Leaf Cluster awards; and

13 WHEREAS, Sixty-six of the Tuskegee Airmen were killed in  
14 combat, and another 33 were shot down and held as prisoners of  
15 war; and

16 WHEREAS, The unqualified success of the Tuskegee Airmen  
17 helped lead to the eventual integration of the United States Armed  
18 Forces; and

19 WHEREAS, The record of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War  
20 II was accomplished by individuals who bravely accepted the  
21 challenge and proudly displayed their skill and patriotism despite  
22 great adversity at home and abroad; and

23 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is an education and  
24 community service organization dedicated to maintaining the  
25 traditions of the Tuskegee Airmen and preserving the legacy of  
26 the first generation of African American military aviators of World  
27 War II with 42 chapters throughout the United States, and has  
28 consistently provided inspiration, motivation, mentoring, and role  
29 models for elementary, middle, and high school students in this  
30 country; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the  
33 portion of State Highway Route 15 between Miramar Road  
34 (milepost marker 14.285) and Mercy Road (milepost marker  
35 17.311), in the County of San Diego, as the Tuskegee Airmen  
36 Highway; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
38 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the  
39 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this  
40 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate

1 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it  
2 further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
4 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the  
5 author for appropriate distribution.

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